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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE AND REMEDIATION

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November 24, 1992

Reply to: State of Utah  
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4840

ERRC-746-92

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MINERALS PROGRAM  
FILE COPY

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David Moore

Hidden Valley Water Users Association  
2114 North 450 West  
Sunset, Utah 84015

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DIVISION OF  
OIL GAS & MINING

Dear Mr. Moore:

In response to your letter of October 29, 1992, the Utah Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) would like to inform you of the status of investigations at the Leeds Silver Reclamation Site (EPA ID# UTD 981550619). The site is being investigated under authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, also known as Superfund) as a potential hazardous waste site, to determine whether long-term cleanup actions may be appropriate.

Sampling was conducted at the site by DERR on July 31, 1990. The scope of sampling involved the collection of 4 soil samples from the ore stockpile and the surface of the heap-leach pad, 6 sediment samples and 5 surface water samples from the on-site ponds and from the irrigation ditch to the east of the site, and one ground water sample from the Hidden Valley Water Users Association well located southeast of the site. The samples were analyzed for heavy metals and selected radiochemistry.

Analytical results indicated that significantly elevated concentrations of heavy metals were present in soil at the site and in the on-site ponds, as compared to background concentrations. Gross alpha and gross beta measurements were also significantly elevated in the on-site ponds. There was no indication of contamination in samples from the irrigation ditch or the ground water sample. However, the analytical results for the radiochemistry portion of the ground water sample were not received by our office; the cause of this is being investigated. Very low metals concentrations in the ground water sample alleviated some concern over the loss of the radiochemistry results.

Due to the elevated metals concentrations on-site, the acidic nature of the on-site collection pond, and the presence of old electrical transformers (potentially containing poly-chlorinated biphenyl), DERR requested assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency, Emergency Response Branch (EPA-ERB), to further assess the site and determine whether any imminent threats to human health or the environment are present. The EPA-ERB assessment is currently underway.



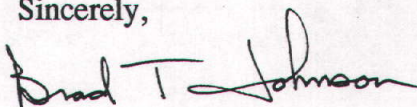
David Moore  
Hidden Valley Water Users Association  
Page 2

At this time, no cleanup activity has been conducted or planned. If EPA-ERB determines that an imminent threat may exist, they may take immediate action to mitigate the threat. DERR is awaiting EPA's assessment prior to making any recommendations concerning long-term cleanup actions. Any potential cleanup actions would be conducted to minimize effects to off-site property or nearby water resources.

EPA-ERB will be on-site on December 2, 1992, to collect environmental data related to the site. In an effort to better understand the relationship between radionuclide contamination on-site, and that in the Hidden Valley Water Users Association well, EPA plans to enlist the help of a radiation specialist, and to obtain a sample of the well water.

It is our understanding that EPA has contacted you to obtain permission and arrange for access to sample your well. If you have any further questions concerning this site, please contact Mr. Jason Knowlton at (801) 536-4100. We will remain responsive to ground water contamination problems potentially associated with the Leeds Silver Reclamation Site. Your concerns and cooperation are appreciated.

Sincerely,



for Ursula K. Trueman, CERCLA Branch Manager  
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation

UKT/JLK/js

cc: Wayne Hedburg, Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
Ken Bousfield, Utah Division of Drinking Water  
Pete Stevenson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII  
William J. Coffman, M.S.P.H., R.E.H.S., R.S., Southwest Utah District Health Dept.